



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/509,964

10/04/2004

Shoichi Ishikawa

1391.1061

1007

21171

7590

08/07/2006

STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

ADAMS, CHARLES D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2164

DATE MAILED: 08/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/509,964

Applicant(s)

ISHIKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Charles D. Adams

Art Unit

2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al. (US Patent 6,073,137) in view of Yeung et al. (US Pre-Grant Publication 2003/0093556).

As to claim 1, Brown et al. teaches a file management method for reading and filing documents by use of file management software, comprising:

Analyzing a folder configuration created on mail software in order to obtain information regarding the folder configuration (see column 6, lines 1-4 and column 6, lines 24-26. The remote mail sever contains folder configurations. It is inherent that the folder configurations that contain messages on a 'mail server' were created with 'mail software');

Creating the same folder configuration in a file system (see 6:24-32 and 6:55-58. "The retrieved data is used to synchronize child folders so that the displayed list of child folders matches the list from the server". The local version of the folder configuration is created in "Microsoft Outlook 98" (see 5:1-9). "Microsoft Outlook 98" provides a system of organizing messages (files). Thus, the folder configuration is created in a file system);

Brown et al. does not teach a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of the obtained information;

Yeung et al. teaches a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of the obtained information (see paragraphs [0124] and [0170]. Images are captured by a scanner and filed into a particular folder in the file system, based on a user name);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Brown et al. to include the teaching of Yeung et al., since Yeung et al. teaches “a document management system that overcomes a conventional barrier of requiring navigation through a third-party interface to access appliance system documents by providing access to the document management repository via a folder incorporated into the existing operating system file structure” (see paragraph [0077]);

Brown et al. as modified teaches performing file management by executing filing processing for the created folder configuration (see 6:58-65. The created folder is processed to correctly display subfolder indicia. Brown et al. also makes use of “Microsoft Outlook 98” (see Brown et al. 5:1-9), which provides for ‘file processing’).

As to claim 2, Brown et al. as modified teaches wherein the analysis of the folder configuration is performed at the time of startup of the file management software, regularly, or upon user’s requests (see Brown et al. 6:5-6. Analysis is performed upon a user request (expanding a folder)); and

When the folder configuration of the mail software differs from that of the file system, the folder configuration of the file system is updated to match that of the mail software (see Brown et al. 6:55-58).

As to claim 3, Brown et al. as modified teaches wherein mail data items are obtained from the mail software and are stored in corresponding folders created in the file system (see Brown et al. 6:24-32) and mail data and other files are managed in the file system under a same environment (see Brown et al. 5:1-9).

As to claim 7, Brown et al. teaches a file management system for reading and filing documents by use of a file management software, comprising:

A folder configuration analysis section analyzing a folder configuration created on a mail software in order to obtain information regarding the folder configuration (see column 6, lines 1-4 and column 6, lines 24-26. The remote mail sever contains folder configurations. It is inherent that the folder configurations that contain messages on a 'mail server' were created with 'mail software'); and

A folder configuration creation section creating the same folder configuration in a file system (see 6:24-32 and 6:55-58. "The retrieved data is used to synchronize child folders so that the displayed list of child folders matches the list from the server". The local version of the folder configuration is created in "Microsoft Outlook 98" (see 5:1-9). "Microsoft Outlook 98" provides a system of organizing messages (files). Thus, the folder configuration is created in a file system)

Brown et al. does not teach a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of the information obtained by the folder configuration analysis section

Yeung et al. teaches a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of the information obtained by the folder configuration analysis section (see paragraphs [0124] and [0170]. Images are captured by a scanner and filed into a particular folder in the file system, based on a user name);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Brown et al. to include the teaching of Yeung et al., since Yeung et al. teaches “a document management system that overcomes a conventional barrier of requiring navigation through a third-party interface to access appliance system documents by providing access to the document management repository via a folder incorporated into the existing operating system file structure” (see paragraph [0077]);

Brown et al. as modified teaches wherein file management is performed by executing filing processing for the file folder configuration created by the folder configuration creation section (see Brown et al. 6:58-65. The created folder is processed to correctly display subfolder indicia. Brown et al. also makes use of “Microsoft Outlook 98” (see 5:1-9), which provides for ‘file processing’).

As to claim 8, Brown et al. teaches a computer-readable storage medium storing a program for reading and filing documents by use of file management software, the program executing:

Analyzing a folder configuration created on mail software in order to obtain information regarding the folder configuration (see column 6, lines 1-4 and column 6, lines 24-26. The remote mail sever contains folder configurations. It is inherent that the folder configurations that contain messages on a 'mail server' were created with 'mail software');

Creating the same folder configuration in a file system (see 6:24-32 and 6:55-58. "The retrieved data is used to synchronize child folders so that the displayed list of child folders matches the list from the server". The local version of the folder configuration is created in "Microsoft Outlook 98" (see 5:1-9). "Microsoft Outlook 98" provides a system of organizing messages (files). Thus, the folder configuration is created in a file system);

Brown et al. does not teach a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of the obtained information;

Yeung et al. teaches a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of the obtained information (see paragraphs [0124] and [0170]. Images are captured by a scanner and filed into a particular folder in the file system, based on a user name);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Brown et al. to include the teaching of Yeung et al., since Yeung et al. teaches "a document management system that

overcomes a conventional barrier of requiring navigation through a third-party interface to access appliance system documents by providing access to the document management repository via a folder incorporated into the existing operating system file structure" (see paragraph [0077]);

Brown et al. as modified teaches performing file management by executing filing processing for the created folder configuration (see Brown et al. 6:58-65. The created folder is processed to correctly display subfolder indicia. Brown et al. also makes use of "Microsoft Outlook 98" (see 5:1-9), which provides for 'file processing').

3. Claims 1 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks (US Pre-Grant Publication 2003/0033271) in view of Yeung et al. (US Pre-Grant Publication 2003/0093556).

As to claim 1, Hendricks teaches a file management method for reading and filing documents by use of file management software, comprising:

Analyzing a folder configuration created on mail software in order to obtain information regarding the folder configuration (see paragraph [0020]. Information for transferring files and folders from user A to user B is analyzed and stored in a transfer database);

Creating the same folder configuration in a file system (see paragraph [0028] and [0029]. The mail messages (files) are recreated with the hierarchy intact. As this is a method of organizing files, it is a file system);

Hendricks does not teach a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of the obtained information;

Yeung et al. teaches a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents on the basis of the obtained information (see paragraphs [0124] and [0170]. Images are captured by a scanner and filed into a particular folder in the file system, based on a user name);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Hendricks to include the teaching of Yeung et al., since Yeung et al. teaches “a document management system that overcomes a conventional barrier of requiring navigation through a third-party interface to access appliance system documents by providing access to the document management repository via a folder incorporated into the existing operating system file structure” (see paragraph [0077]);

Hendricks as modified teaches performing file management by executing filing processing for the created folder configuration (see Hendricks paragraph [0029]).

As to claim 5, Hendricks as modified teaches wherein the folder configuration of the mail software is created on two or more storage units (see Hendricks paragraphs [0030]. Folders can be transferred to more than one user. Therefore, the folder configuration of the electronic mail software can be created on two or more storage units).

As to claim 6, Hendricks as modified teaches wherein image data read by use of a scanner are simultaneously stored in the two or more storage units (see Hendricks paragraphs [0030]). Folders can be transferred to more than one user. Therefore, the folder configuration of the electronic mail software can be created on two or more storage units, and see Yeung et al., paragraphs [0169] and [0170]. Users can copy items between folders, which would make the item exist in two storage units).

4. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks (US Pre-Grant Publication 2003/0033271) in view of Yeung et al. (US Pre-Grant Publication 2003/0093556), and further in view of Sykes, JR. (US Pre-Grant Publication 2002/0129108).

As to claim 4, Hendricks teaches a file management method according to claim 1.

Hendricks does not teach wherein when a file is stored in a folder in the file system, a mail including information regarding a link to the file, detailed information of the file, and the file itself is transmitted to a mail address of a user, whereby the file is managed on the mail software.

Sykes, JR teaches wherein when a file is stored in a folder in the file system, a mail including information regarding a link to the file, detailed information of the file, and the file itself is transmitted to a mail address of a user, whereby the file is managed on the mail software (see Figures 2a and 2b, paragraphs [0010] and [0011]). When a

message from the mail software is stored in the alternate file system, the system transmits a receipt to the sender that includes the original message (file). The receipt includes information regarding a link (a sender is told that it exists and is archived), detailed information of the file (the original message), and, as stated, the original message itself. As the receipt is transmitted to the user via email, the user may then manage the file on his or her email software).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Hendricks by the teaching of Sykes, JR because Sykes, JR teaches that “a problem with electronic communications versus their paper-based counterparts is that some electronic communications can be altered, sometimes without detection, and thus it is difficult to verify what was sent, when it was sent, or when it was received”.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles D. Adams whose telephone number is (571) 272-3938. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, M - F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/509,964
Art Unit: 2164

Page 12

Charles Adams
AU2164



SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER